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## DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Talking Points for the DCI  
(30 September 1983)

Progress in the cease-fire negotiations hinges on the speedy resolution of some contentious issues:

- The status of Beirut's southern suburbs, where Lebanese Army and Shia militiamen continue to clash.
- The cooperation between the Christian Lebanese Forces militia and the Army in the coastal areas south of Damur.
- The selection of observers to supervise the cease-fire.

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Procedural matters, including setting the agenda, will delay the conference on reconciliation. The opposing factions almost certainly are using the cease-fire period to resupply and regroup their forces, in the expectation that a breakdown of the talks is inevitable.

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Domestic stability in Lebanon depends upon reaching a new balance-of-power arrangement that gives the country's majority Muslim population a more equitable role and assures the security of the Christian community. Rapid progress on these political issues is essential if the cease-fire and the reconciliation process are to endure.

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Whenever a national reconciliation conference is held, it is likely to break down, resulting in renewed factional fighting, heightened confessional intransigence, and a prolonged partition of Lebanon.

- Gemayel is not likely to take the lead in proposing significant reforms.
- If Damascus urges its allies to press for maximal concessions, the Christians will balk.

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Meaningful national reconciliation depends primarily on the Lebanese and they seem unwilling to make the concessions and compromises necessary for a lasting accommodation. We expect that the weak central government will survive and probably maintain control over the greater Beirut area but it will have to contend with autonomous Maronite and Druze heartlands and a prolonged Syrian and Israeli occupation.

- This situation, while far from ideal, could endure for an extended period.
- A rough balance of power could emerge.

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Both Syria and Israel want a central government in Lebanon responsive to their own interests. Without such a government, both countries will remain indefinitely in Lebanon and accept de facto partition. 

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Damascus will continue to press Gemayel or a successor regime to abrogate the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. We believe that any Lebanese Government, at minimum, will continue to hold the agreement in abeyance. 

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SUBJECT: Talking Points for the DCI

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